

Updates in Surgery Series

Fulvio Calise
Luciano Casciola *Editors*

Minimally Invasive Surgery of the Liver

In collaboration with
Graziano Ceccarelli, Antonio Giuliani,
Alberto Patriti and Vincenzo Scuderi



 Springer

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Foreword by
Gianluigi Melotti



Editors

Fulvio Calise

Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver
Transplant Center
A. Cardarelli Hospital
Naples, Italy

Luciano Casciola

Department of Surgery
Division of General, Minimally Invasive
and Robotic Surgery, ASL3 Umbria
San Matteo degli Infermi Hospital
Spoleto, Italy

In collaboration with:

Graziano Ceccarelli, Antonio Giuliani, Alberto Patriti and Vincenzo Scuderi

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Updates in Surgery



Foreword

New technologies and a generation of surgeons mastering advanced minimally invasive surgery have greatly contributed to the development and growth of laparoscopic hepatic surgery.

Skepticism related to technical and oncological concerns initially limited the widespread acceptance and growth of this approach. However, the positive results obtained by skilled surgeons using the laparoscopic technique clearly demonstrate its advantages, as does the rate of oncologic clearance and disease-free interval for primary and secondary tumors, which is comparable with that of open procedures. Now, both minor and major hepatectomies are performed in specialized centers worldwide, and the slow diffusion rate of the technique itself guarantees that safe procedures are implemented.

Robot-assisted surgery is also developing as an important contribution to hepatic surgery: the more accurate and precise movements provided by robotic instruments, coupled with a much greater dexterity, facilitate complex posterior and superior resections and procedures involving biliary reconstructions.

This book meticulously describes the lights and shadows, indications and contraindications, pros and cons, advantages and limitations of minimally invasive surgery of the liver, analyzing its progression from technical evolution to highly delicate procedures and projecting into the future.

Fulvio Calise and Luciano Casciola, first-class leaders of the Italian surgical school and community, beyond their significant personal contributions, engaged the most distinguished domestic and international experts in minimally invasive hepatic surgery in the creation of this highly practical and enjoyable manual. The significant experience and scientific excellence of the contributing authors have culminated in an accurate description of laparoscopic and robot-assisted procedures related to all types of hepatic resections, defining in detail the necessary learning curve and clarifying the technological aspects of the procedures.

Thank you, Fulvio and Luciano, for this remarkable effort, and I hereby express my personal gratitude and that on behalf of the Italian Surgical Society.

Rome, September 2012

Gianluigi Melotti
President, Italian Society of Surgery

Preface

This book is meant as a challenge to the usual.

Scientific books usually certify and codify what has already been acknowledged and shared in clinical practice as they serve the purpose of improving what the scientific community has already established in the treatment of patients. In contrast, this book tries to indicate what could be safely done in the near future in a wider surgical context due to the extensive and increasing application of the laparoscopic approach to abdominal diseases.

We strongly believe that, thanks to the new technical modalities, the very near future will witness rapid change in the way of approaching liver diseases and, consequently, of learning how to carry out minimally invasive liver surgery. Although the latter is a highly questionable point, we think that learning will inevitably be modified by the swift advance of technology and that there will be a compelling need to change the rules of surgical training. Robotics will play a key role in forming young surgeons as soon as costs fall following the expiry of the original patents. Robotic surgery will then be able to achieve much wider and well-deserved diffusion.

We have therefore asked our colleagues to present what they consider to be best practices in their current activity and also what today, in some cases, is still regarded as somehow controversial in hepatobiliary and advanced general laparoscopic surgery. Thirty-one videos presenting all the techniques and technicalities related to a mini-invasive approach complete this book, together with a final survey of the last seven years of activity in this field in Italy. We think that the survey shows interesting practices both in dedicated hepatobiliary units and in general surgery units.

We sincerely thank all our co-authors for their work and for believing that this effort might contribute to a better insight into the way ahead for new generations of surgeons.

Naples and Spoleto, September 2012

Fulvio Calise
Luciano Casciola

Contributors

Giulio Angelini General and Hepatobiliary Surgery, Galliera Hospitals, Genoa, Italy

Luca Aldrighetti Department of Surgery, Hepatobiliary Surgery Unit, San Raffaele Hospital, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan, Italy

Mario Anneschiarico Department of Surgery, General Surgery Unit, Misericordia Hospital Grosseto, Grosseto Italy

Giuseppe Aragiusto Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplant Center, A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Francesco Ardito Hepatobiliary Surgery Unit, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome, Italy

Piero Atelli Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplant Center, A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Claudio Bagarolo General and Hepatobiliary Surgery, Galliera Hospitals, Genoa, Italy

Andrea Barberis General and Hepatobiliary Surgery, Galliera Hospitals, Genoa, Italy

Alberto Bartoli Department of Surgery, Division of General, Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery, ASL3 Umbria, San Matteo degli Infermi Hospital, Spoleto, Italy

Andrea Belli General and HPB Surgery, Loreto Nuovo Hospital, Naples, Italy

Fiorenza Belli General and Hepatobiliary Surgery, Galliera Hospitals, Genoa, Italy

Giulio Belli General and HPB Surgery, Loreto Nuovo Hospital, Naples, Italy

Raffaele Bellochi Department of Surgery, Division of General, Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery, ASL3 Umbria, San Matteo degli Infermi Hospital, Spoleto, Italy

Mario Belluomini Department of Oncology, Transplants, and New Technologies, AOU Pisana, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy

Riccardo Boetto Hepatobiliary Surgery Unit and Liver Transplant Center, University of Padua, Padua, Italy

Ugo Boggi Department of Oncology, Transplants, and New Technologies, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy

Joseph F. Buell Tulane Transplant Institute, Department of Surgery, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

David Calatayud Division of General, Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery, Department of Surgery, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, USA

Fulvio Calise Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplant Center, A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Fabio Caniglia Department of Oncology, Transplants, and New Technologies, AOU Pisana, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy

Robert Cannon Department of Surgery, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, USA

Carla Cappelli Department of Radiology, AOU Pisana, Pisa, Italy

Lorenzo Capussotti Department of HPB and Digestive Surgery, Ospedale Mauriziano Umberto I, Turin, Italy

Luciano Casciola Department of Surgery, Division of General, Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery, ASL3 Umbria, San Matteo degli Infermi Hospital, Spoleto, Italy

Graziano Ceccarelli Department of Surgery, Division of General, Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery, ASL3 Umbria, San Matteo degli Infermi Hospital, Spoleto, Italy

Antonio Ceriello Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplant Center,
A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Daniel Cherqui Section of Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplantation,
New York Presbyterian Hospital – Weill Cornell Medical Center, New York, USA

Umberto Cillo Hepatobiliary Surgery Unit and Liver Transplant Center,
University of Padua, Padua, Italy

Luigi Cioffi General and HPB Surgery, Loreto Nuovo Hospital, Naples, Italy

Federica Cipriani Department of Surgery, Hepatobiliary Surgery Unit,
San Raffaele Hospital, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan, Italy

Marco Colasanti General Surgery and Transplantation, San Camillo Hospital,
Rome, Italy

Andrea Coratti Department of Surgery, General Surgery Unit, Misericordia
Hospital Grosseto, Grosseto Italy

Santolo Cozzolino Center of Biotechnologies, A. Cardarelli Hospital,
Naples, Italy

Alberto D'Agostino General and HPB Surgery, Loreto Nuovo Hospital,
Naples, Italy

Francesco D'Amico Hepatobiliary Surgery Unit and Liver Transplant Center,
University of Padua, Padua, Italy

Ada De Felice Anesthesia and Intensive Care Unit, Transplants Department,
A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Maurizio Defez Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplant Center,
A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Giuseppe De Simone Anesthesia and Intensive Care Unit, Transplants
Department, A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Bjørn Edwin The Interventional Center and Surgical Department, Oslo
University Hospital, Rikshospitalet, Oslo, Norway

Giorgio Ercolani Liver and Multiorgan Transplant Unit, S. Orsola-Malpighi
Hospital, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

Ciro Esposito Anesthesia and Intensive Care Unit, Transplants Department, A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Giuseppe Maria Ettorre General Surgery and Transplantation, San Camillo Hospital, Rome, Italy

Federico Famiglietti Digestive and Colorectal Surgery, University of Turin, Turin, Italy

Corrado Fantini General and HPB Surgery, Loreto Nuovo Hospital, Naples, Italy

Gianfranco Ferla Department of Surgery, Hepatobiliary Surgery Unit, San Raffaele Hospital, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan, Italy

Alessandro Ferrero Department of HPB and Digestive Surgery, Ospedale Mauriziano Umberto I, Turin, Italy

Marco Filauro General and Hepatobiliary Surgery, Galliera Hospitals, Genoa, Italy

Brice Gayet Department of Digestive Diseases, Institut Mutualiste Montsouris, University Paris Descartes, Paris, France

Antonio Giuliani Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplant Center, A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Pier Cristoforo Giulianotti Division of General, Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery, Department of Surgery, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, USA

Felice Giuliante Hepatobiliary Surgery Unit, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome, Italy

Bruno Gridelli Department of Abdominal and Transplantation Surgery, Istituto Mediterraneo per i Trapianti e Terapie ad Alta Specializzazione (IsMeTT) - University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Italy, Palermo, Italy

Enrico Gringeri Hepatobiliary Surgery Unit and Liver Transplant Center, University of Padua, Padua, Italy

Salvatore Gruttadauria Department of Abdominal and Transplantation Surgery, Istituto Mediterraneo per i Trapianti e Terapie ad Alta Specializzazione (IsMeTT) - University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Italy, Palermo, Italy

Michael D. Kluger Assistant Professor of Surgery, Section of Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplantation, New York Presbyterian Hospital – Weill Cornell Medical Center, New York, USA

Alan Koffron Department of Surgery, Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine, Detroit, Michigan, USA

Pasquale Lepiane General Surgery and Transplantation, San Camillo Hospital, Rome, Italy

Paolo Limongelli General and HPB Surgery, Loreto Nuovo Hospital, Naples, Italy

Roberto Lo Tesoriere Department of HPB and Digestive Surgery, Ospedale Mauriziano Umberto I, Turin, Italy

Andrea Laurenzi General Surgery and Transplantation, San Camillo Hospital, Rome, Italy

Marcella Marracino Anesthesia and Intensive Care Unit, National Cancer Institute “Pascale”, Naples, Italy

Gianpaolo Marte Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplant Center, A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Carla Migliaccio Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplant Center, A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Giangiacomo Nunzio Monti Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplant Center, A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Mario Morino Digestive and Colorectal Surgery, University of Turin, Turin, Italy

Daniele Neri Hepatobiliary Surgery Unit and Liver Transplant Center, University of Padua, Padua, Italy

Raffaella Niola Department of Diagnostic Imaging, Section of Emergency Radiology, A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Gennaro Nuzzo Hepatobiliary Surgery Unit, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome, Italy

Enrico Opocher Hepatobiliary, Pancreatic and Digestive Surgery, San Paolo Hospital, University of Milan, Milan, Italy

Michele Paganelli Department of Surgery, Hepatobiliary Surgery Unit, San Raffaele Hospital, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan, Italy

Duilio Pagano Department of Abdominal and Transplantation Surgery, Istituto Mediterraneo per i Trapianti e Terapie ad Alta Specializzazione (IsMeTT) - University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Italy, Palermo, Italy

Alberto Patriti Department of Surgery, Division of General, Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery, ASL3 Umbria, San Matteo degli Infermi Hospital, Spoleto, Italy

Antonio Daniele Pinna Liver and Multiorgan Transplant Unit, S. Orsola-Malpighi Hospital, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy

Marina Polacco Hepatobiliary Surgery Unit and Liver Transplant Center, University of Padua, Padua, Italy

Francesca Ratti Department of Surgery, Hepatobiliary Surgery Unit, San Raffaele Hospital, Vita-Salute San Raffaele University, Milan, Italy

Calogero Ricotta Department of Abdominal and Transplantation Surgery, Istituto Mediterraneo per i Trapianti e Terapie ad Alta Specializzazione (IsMeTT) - University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Italy, Palermo, Italy

Aldo Rocca Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplant Center, A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Marina Romano Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplant Center, A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Gianluca Russo General and HPB Surgery, Loreto Nuovo Hospital, Naples, Italy

Nadia Russolillo Department of HPB and Digestive Surgery, Ospedale Mauriziano Umberto I, Turin, Italy

Bob Saggi Tulane Transplant Institute, Department of Surgery, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Roberto Santambrogio Hepatobiliary, Pancreatic and Digestive Surgery, San Paolo Hospital, University of Milan, Milan, Italy

Walter Santaniello Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplant Center, A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Roberto Santoro General Surgery and Transplantation, San Camillo Hospital, Rome, Italy

Vincenzo Scuderi Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplant Unit, A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Francesco Sicoli Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplant Center, A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Stefano Signori Department of Oncology, Transplants, and New Technologies, AOU Pisana, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy

Marco Spada Department of Abdominal and Transplantation Surgery, Istituto Mediterraneo per i Trapianti e Terapie ad Alta Specializzazione (IsMeTT) - University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Italy, Palermo, Italy

Alessandro Spaziani Department of Surgery, Division of General, Minimally Invasive and Robotic Surgery, ASL3 Umbria, San Matteo degli Infermi Hospital, Spoleto, Italy

Giuseppe Surfaro Hepatobiliary Surgery and Liver Transplant Center, A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

Maria Vellone Hepatobiliary Surgery Unit, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome, Italy

Giovanni Vennarecci General Surgery and Transplantation, San Camillo Hospital, Rome, Italy

Luca Viganò Department of HPB and Digestive Surgery, Ospedale Mauriziano Umberto I, Turin, Italy

Alessandro Vitale Hepatobiliary Surgery Unit and Liver Transplant Center, University of Padua, Padua, Italy

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